

REMARKS

This is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/151,336 filed September 11, 1998. It is respectfully requested that the within amendments be made to the subject continuation application prior to examination thereof by the Examiner.

The Specification has been amended to include a reference to the parent. The claims have been amended to clarify the subject matter sought to be patented in this continuation application. No prosecution history estoppel results from the within claim amendments because this is a continuation application and the within claim amendments are being made to clarify the subject matter sought to be patented in this continuation application.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) citing the prior art made of record in the parent accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the prior art made of record in the parent and the IDS be considered and made of record in the subject continuation application by the Examiner.

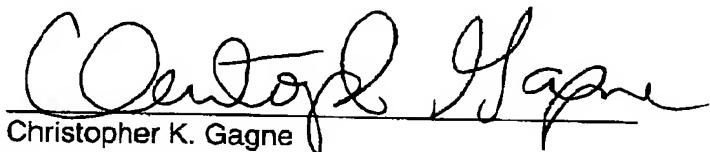
Allowance of the subject application, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in the further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 508-865-4168.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges occasioned by this submission to
Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 JAN 04



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